



# MSGGA Newsletter

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January 2021 - Volume 11, Issue 1

## Montana's Official Golf Season:

**April 1 to October 31**

Off-season scores played in Montana should not be posted. Scores played where it is in-season are valid and should be posted, via the smart-phone app, online handicap system, or membership linking.

## **2021 MSGGA Tournaments:**

### **STATE JUNIORS**

June 21-22, Cottonwood Hills GC

### **MEN'S STATE/SR/S.SR AM**

July 15-17, Canyon River GC

### **WOMEN'S STATE, MID, & SR AM**

July 29-31, Meadow Lark CC

### **MEN'S STATE SENIORS**

August 3-5, Butte area

### **MEN'S MID AM**

August 19-21, Polson Bay GC

## NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE



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## **Want to add something to the newsletter?**

Contact us at:

[support@msgagolf.org](mailto:support@msgagolf.org)

1-800-628-3752, ext 1

## **A Note From the MSGGA President**

*Carla Berg, MSGGA President*



Happy New Year, fellow golfers! We are hoping this greeting finds everyone safe and healthy. Whew, what a year 2020 was! We've overcome some very trying times this past year. Thanks to our Executive Director, Jim Opitz, we came through the rough times quite well. Jim worked extensively with state host tournament sites, county health departments, and the Governor's office in an effort to make the state tournaments possible. We are hoping this will be behind us soon.

Plans are underway for the 2021 season. The MSGGA is excited to roll out our new event this coming May. It is a 2-person 4-ball tournament to be held at The Briarwood in Billings. So get yourself a partner—your team can be lady/man, man/man, or lady/lady. It should be fun for all.

Last year we added a Men's Senior Amateur, played with the Men's Amateur. This year we will be adding a Men's Super-Senior Amateur to be played at the same event. The entry numbers are limited for this event, so keep your eye on our website for when entries are open. These three events will take place together at Canyon River Golf Club in Missoula. Another new event we had in 2020 was a Women's Mid-Amateur, which proved to be very welcoming. We will continue to host this event in conjunction with the Women's Amateur and Senior Amateur Championship. The women will be the guests of Meadow Lark Country Club in Great Falls in 2021.

The State Juniors will be held at Cottonwood Hills Golf Club in Bozeman. They were scheduled to play there last summer but, due to COVID19, we were forced to move the event to Polson Bay Golf Course. And, a big thank you to Polson for making the quick change. Polson Bay will host the Men's Mid-Amateur this summer. The Montana Cup (Ryder cup type play between local PGA professionals and amateurs) will be played at Hilands Golf Club in Billings. The MSSGA will be holding their annual senior championship in the Butte area.

Emily Hulsey, our handicap and website coordinator, has been busy this past year with the change to the World Handicap System. Please check out her monthly tips and reminders about WHS in our newsletters and on our website at [www.msgagolf.org](http://www.msgagolf.org). If you have questions, concerns, or just want to share ideas, please reach out to us at [support@msgagolf.org](mailto:support@msgagolf.org). Once again, stay safe, and we are looking forward to a great golf season!

## Sherburne Receives Hall of Fame Award

George Geise, MSGA Board of Directors



Christmas came a little early for Steve Sherburne, who, on December 12, received a plaque recognizing his induction into the Montana State Golf Association Hall of Fame. Normally, formal ceremonies honoring new Hall of Fame members are held at MSGA-sponsored events in the summer, where friends and associates can join in the celebration. But 2020 was far from a normal year – especially for Sherburne, who has battled cancer and related health issues for the past six months or more.

His unique induction “ceremony” was conducted outside the picture window of his home in East Glacier, where Steve has been staying during his recuperation period. The group attending the award presentation included Lisa Forsberg, MSGA Board Member and USGA Rating Team Coordinator. Also representing the MSGA were colleagues Ron Normandeau and Gary Kalberg, who have worked along with Sherburne on MSGA course rating teams for many years.



Steve Sherburne

Sherburne has been an MSGA board member for nearly 30 years, and he has worked as a course rater and administrator for 27 of those years. He also served as MSGA Board President for two years, a time when Steve helped greatly during the merger of the men’s and women’s associations.

Forsberg read a statement recognizing Sherburne’s many contributions to golf in the state of Montana.

“On behalf of the Montana State Golf Association ... for the 27 years dedicated to the USGA by serving as a rater and administrator for the MSGA Rating Team, a team you saved, educated, and cultivated ... we proudly present this plaque inducting you into the MSGA Hall of Fame. It is very long overdue and well-deserved.”

Several other friends of Sherburne attended the ceremony, including a member of the Blackfeet tribe, who played the drum and sang a song reserved for warriors. He explained that Steve was every bit a warrior. The Sherburne family, including his daughter and ex-wife, appreciates prayers and messages of appreciation from Steve’s many friends across the state.

## Raffle Fundraiser - Tickets Left!

Tickets are still on sale for the MSGA Trip-of-the-Month Raffle. Raffle proceeds are exclusively used to help fund the MSGA Junior Grant Program. You can download a Raffle brochure at [www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fundraiser](http://www.msgagolf.org/raffle-fundraiser).



**Congratulations to our NEWEST WINNERS!**

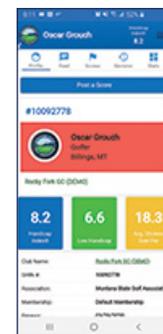
**DECEMBER'S DRAWING:**

**Banff, Alberta - Gwen Graff, Nevada**  
**\$200 cash - Kristy Paine, California**

**\*\* JANUARY'S TRIP PRIZE is Leavenworth, WA \*\***



Mary Bryson of MSGA (right) presents check to Coach Ben MacIntyre of Carroll College.



Have you tried the MSGA app?

Search "Montana State Golf Association" in the Android and Apple stores.

## MSGA Scholarships

Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicaps & Website

The MSGA Scholarship application is available to all Montana boys and girls in their senior year of high school. The applicant should be involved in golf, but golf skill is not a factor.

You can access the application on our website ([www.msgagolf.org](http://www.msgagolf.org)), or by clicking [here](#).

Applications must be received no later than 3/15/21, and awards will be announced after 4/25/21.

If you have a question about the World Handicap System, please feel free to contact us at [support@msgagolf.org](mailto:support@msgagolf.org), or the USGA at [hdcquestions@usga.org](mailto:hdcquestions@usga.org).

## Remembering Kernaghan

George Geise, MSGA Board of Directors

Todd Kernaghan, a Great Falls native who was the dominant male golfer in Montana in the late 1980s, passed away in mid-December at his home in Texas. He was 52.

Kernaghan won state Class AA high school titles in 1985 and 1986 at Great Falls High School, then played collegiately at both Arkansas and Arizona State. He was a member of the ASU team that won the NCAA Championships in 1990.

Kernaghan won State Amateur titles in Montana in 1987 in Laurel, 1989 in Missoula, and 1990 in Billings. He also finished second in 1988 to Aaron Bengoechea of Billings, his main rival during that period. He won many tournaments at his home club, Meadow



Todd Kernaghan

Lark Country Club, where he still holds the course record of 63.

Kernaghan turned pro in the summer of 1990 and won his first event, the Montana Open at Larchmont GC in Missoula. He played on mini-tours for a few years before regaining his amateur standing. He worked in the financial services business in Texas.

He is survived by his wife, two children, and his parents in Great Falls – Jim Kernaghan and Candy Wagner. His family asks that those who wish to donate to junior golf in Todd's memory can send contributions to the MSGA.

## A Review Of Three WHS Safeguards

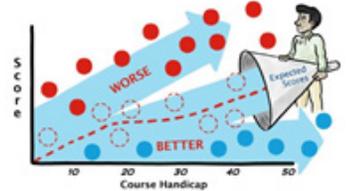
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap & Website Coordinator



The World Handicap System (WHS) was introduced and implemented a year ago, along with three new safeguards designed to protect the integrity of your Handicap Index. Now that we've been using WHS for a year, more golfers are seeing these features come into play. Here is a quick review of each one and how it could affect you:

### Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

The PCC is based entirely on scoring data. It compares the actual scores made at a course each day to the expected scores of the players who made them. PCC adjustments are made if, as a group, it played easier or harder than expected, though this is rare. It is applied automatically and is clearly identified within a player's scoring record. For PCC to take place, at least 8 scores must be posted at a course by players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 or below – and the more scores that are posted, the more reliable the calculation becomes. It takes place at the end of each day, so only scores posted *on the day of play* will contribute to the data pool. If you forget and post it later, the adjustment still affects you, even if your score wasn't used in the calculation of the adjustment.



### Soft Cap and Hard Cap

The Low Handicap Index is the lowest achieved by a player during the calendar year preceding the most recent score, and serves as the baseline for the cap procedure. A player must first have 20 scores in their scoring record. Each time the Handicap Index updates, the new value is compared to the Low Handicap Index. If a 3.0 stroke increase takes place, the soft cap reduces the rate of upward movement beyond 3.0 strokes by 50 percent. If a 5.0 stroke increase takes place (after the soft cap is applied) the hard cap prevents any additional upward movement from taking place. The Handicap Committee can override the cap – but only if there is a valid reason.



### Exceptional Score Reduction (ESR)

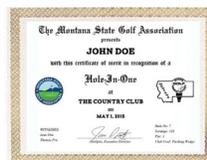
Any score (regular or competition) that is 7.0 strokes or better than the player's Handicap Index is considered exceptional. When a score is between 7.0 and 9.9 strokes better than the player's Handicap Index at the time the round was played, their Handicap Index is reduced by 1 stroke (-1 adjustment to the most recent 20 score differentials). If the score is 10.0 strokes or better, their Handicap Index is reduced by 2 strokes. The impact of ESR gradually diminishes as more scores are posted to the player's record and the adjusted differentials fall off.



## Congratulations to our newest Ace Club Member!

Did you get a hole-in-one? Go to [www.msgagolf.org](http://www.msgagolf.org) to see how to get your MSGA Hole-in-One Certificate!

Brad Fox, 8/12/20, Yellowstone CC, Hole #5, 173 yds, 9 Iron



Click here to donate to the MSGA.  
Thanks for your support!